

**FAMILIES FIRST AND FOREMOST (F³)
ORIENTATION PRESENTATION FOR LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD
MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2000
9 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Kathy Campbell, Chair
Larry Hudkins, Vice Chair
Linda Steinman
Bernie Heier
Bob Workman

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

Campbell explained that there are four partners in the Families First & Foremost (F³) Grant - County, Region V, State of Nebraska and the parents organization (UPLIFT). Three grant components receive funding - administration (currently through the County); the parents organization and evaluation (a contract between the State of Nebraska and the University of Nebraska).

AGENDA ITEM

1 HISTORY OF FEDERAL GRANT

Dr. Epstein, evaluator from the University of Nebraska, briefly reviewed the history of the Families First & Foremost (F³) Grant, noting the following:

- O Project received initial funding (10/1/98)
- O Epstein developed a report card - *Reflections on Lancaster County's CMHS System* (Exhibit A) (7/99)
- O Decision to move administration of the grant project from Region V to County and to bring in new administrative staff (8/99)
- O Decision to begin providing services through Professional Partners - hired, trained and supervised by Region V (8/99)

2 ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFER TO LANCASTER COUNTY

See Agenda Item 1.

3 OVERVIEW OF GRANT PURPOSE, FUNCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Sheryl Schrepf, Families First & Foremost (F³) Grant Director, reviewed *Families First and Foremost (F³), Community Collaborative - Lancaster County, Federal Grant Project - 1998-2003* (Exhibit A), noting:

- O Purpose
- O Target Population
- O Core Values
- O Program Goals
- O Service System Grant Components
- O Grant Funds
- O Evaluation
- O Strategy To Be Used

Schrepf said F³ is in the process of hiring an Intake Coordinator. All referrals will come to F³, to determine eligibility, and will be matched with one of the Professional Partner programs in the community. This will allow F³ to track participants and issues. She estimated that 170 families (10 of which will be matched with the program through juvenile justice) will be served by the grant this year and each family will have a Care Coordinator (also known as Professional Partner).

Schrepf explained the makeup and respective roles of the Convener and Stakeholder groups (See Exhibit B). She noted that task force groups will be looking at specific issues, such as crisis response, assessment, target population, collateral, Management Information System (MIS), and policies/changes at the Juvenile Detention Center.

Trish Blakely, parent, briefly described her family's experiences with the Professional Partners Program.

4 FEDERAL SITE VISIT

Schrepf distributed copies of the *Grant Community Visit Report* , which assessed and made recommendation on the following (Exhibit C):

- O Goals of the project
- O Target population of children with a serious emotional disturbance
- O Child and family services/supports
- O System level coordination/infrastructure and management structure
- O Fiscal management
- O Cultural competence
- O Family involvement
- O Public education/social marketing campaign
- O Evaluation

5 THIRD YEAR BUDGET & WORKPLAN

Schrepf reviewed *Families First and Foremost, Third Year Grant - 2000-01, October 1, 2000 - September 30, 2001* (Exhibit D). She explained that a 3 to 1 match is required this year, which is the third year of the grant. An even match is required next year and more local than federal monies are required the fifth year, which is the final year of the grant.

Heier asked for a breakdown of personnel costs under Service Development.

Schrepf said salaries are budgeted as follows:

Special Grants Administrator	\$50,000
Assessment Center Director	\$43,000
Care Coordinator Supervisor	\$40,000
Intake Coordinator	\$33,000
Family Outreach/Support Worker	\$25,000 each

Schrepf said contracts for services (Professional Partners) will be at the rate of \$7,800 per case.

Epstein explained that, to date, the schools have not been active participants in the project. He said two Care Coordinators will now be placed at the elementary school level, two at the middle school level and two at the high school level. He said if this is shown to be beneficial, the Lincoln Public Schools may decide to continue that program upon expiration of the grant.

6 EVALUATION PROJECT

Epstein distributed *F3: Summary of Family/Child Characteristics as of 6/12/00* (Exhibit E). He said the evaluation process is dictated by the federal government and data is required to be collected upon intake and in six month intervals. Epstein noted that tracking of 250 youth and families is required by the beginning of the fourth year of the grant.

Epstein reported that two thirds of the children evaluated have been placed out of home on one or more occasions and 52 percent of the youth and 72 percent of the families come into the program with two or more risk factors. Strengths are also documented and 50 percent of the youth have an emotional strength score at or above the national average in one of five areas. He also reviewed the CAFAS and CBCL data, noting that the majority of the youth entering the program are presenting multiple functioning problems and multiple psycho-pathology problems.

Epstein said UNL students are observing planning meetings held between the families and the Professional Partners and are evaluating how youth are being served. He said it appears from the data that service delivery is not as collaborative as the system was intended to be.

Epstein reported that screening of mental health needs is taking place at the Attention Center and may be utilized as part of the initial intake process.

Epstein said information requested by the community is also being gathered. This data will indicate whether the youth attend school, have had contact with law enforcement and have parole and probation records. He said the schools, Lincoln Police Department, State Probation and Child Protective Services have agreed to provide this data and will identify youth with numbers to maintain confidentiality. The data will be evaluated in six month intervals.

Blakely said a number of the youth identified through mental health and juvenile justice have substance abuse problems. She said she believes the substance abuse piece is being overlooked.

Schrepf agreed that substance abuse is being grouped in with behavioral health and mental health. She said the bigger issue is that there are not enough services in the substance abuse area.

Boesch remarked that the challenge is "how to get around the political definitions that pocket that money" in designing the system of care.

Schrepf said it may be beneficial to involve CenterPointe in a more meaningful way.

Steinman said the evaluation process has identified that this is a major problem and should help dictate how funds will be spent to sustain programs.

Boesch said the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) funding focus could also be shifted to address mental health, substance abuse, and juvenile justice needs in the community.

7 UPLIFT - FAMILY ORGANIZATION

Schrepf said UPLIFT is the local partnering family organization. She said a statewide network of family organizations, the Nebraska Federation of Families, is now being developed and the contract will shift to this organization. Schrepf added that a number of families participate in the project outside of UPLIFT.

Eagan asked whether consideration has been given to having an outside consultant develop the family component.

Schrepf said Sandra Spencer, family peer mentor, will be in Lincoln next week and will be meeting with staff and families to discuss roles and projects. She noted that UPLIFT wants to remain autonomous.

8 FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

Epstein said the F³ Grant project is coming to a critical juncture and a number of issues need to be resolved. These include the role of Region V in delivery of services, the State's involvement in the project and the role of families. He said the project was not intended to serve a specific number of youth and families in Lancaster County, rather to develop a system of care and to change the way services are provided. He said the only way to insure sustainability is to resolve these issues.

Schrepf distributed copies of a draft of *Memorandum of Understanding, Families First & Foremost, Children's System of Care* (Exhibit F).

9 QUESTIONS/ANSWERS/DISCUSSION

In response to a question from Hudkins, Schrepf said Region V's involvement with the Conveners group has been through staff.

Steinman said she is a member of the Region V Board, but has made it clear to that body that her participation in the Conveners group is on behalf of the County Board.

Campbell said the lack of involvement by the Region V Board has been a concern. She added that commitment is crucial to sustainability of the project.

Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, said Region V is confusing project ownership and commitment.

Campbell suggested that a similar orientation session be provided to the Region V Governing Board.

Hudkins said there is a perception in the community that Families First and Foremost has used funds in a frivolous manner by providing families trips to out-of-state conventions.

Schrepf said training of all systems partners is a crucial component of the grant.

The Board scheduled a presentation on wraparound services by Bruce Kamradt, Director of wraparound programs for Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from 2 -4 p.m. on September 7th in Room 113 of the County-City Building. Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director; Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator; Dennis Banks, Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center Director; Michelle Schindler, Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center Deputy Director; and representatives of Child Guidance Center were asked to attend.

The Board also asked that Schrepf provide periodic updates.

Additional materials distributed were:

- O *Total County \$ Spent on Mental Health, Substance Abuse & Juvenile Justice* (Exhibit G)
- O *The Mission and Purpose of "Health Families Project"* (Exhibit H)

10 ADJOURNMENT

By direction of the Chair, the meeting was adjourned.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk